

DAYLIGHT ON THE MONEY AND BANKING QUESTIONS

AND OTHER PROBLEMS



By R. C. OWENS
EDMONTON, ALBERTA

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Rich and Poor

Rich and poor, rich and poor, oh, what tragic words are these;

What histories, what mysteries, of fortune's stern decrees.
Friends they sever, some forever, think what torture they endure;

Must we tomorrow live in sorrow just by being rich or poor!

See yon gay and costly carriage bears a proud one on her way,

'Tis for that her heartless marriage, this perchance is what she'll say;

But her troubles now are endless, 'spite her place in main-mon's niche,

For she is desolate and friendless—'twas not so ere she was rich.

Rich and poor, rich and poor, oh, what magic words are these!

What histories, what mysteries of fortune's stern decrees.
Friends they sever, some forever; think what torture they endure;

Must we tomorrow lend or borrow, just by being rich or poor?

Ask yon maiden, broken-hearted, why she looks so pale with care;

Gold, she'll tell you, 'twas that parted her from all she hoped to share;

Not a heart, but worldly splendor, strove her loved one to secure,

What cared he who might befriend—he was rich and she was poor.

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Rich and poor, rich and poor, upon these words what hearts are sold;

What heart-beating, what retreating, when the test is nought but gold;

Vows are broken, falsehoods spoken, streams once crystal run impure,

Every trouble seems to double, just by being rich or poor.

What Others Say of this Work

I have carefully gone over your series of articles in the Searchlight beginning February, 1920, under the heading, "Daylight On the Money and Banking Questions," and I have no hesitation in saying that it would be unfortunate if you are not able to put that series of articles in the form of a pamphlet which could be circulated.

JOSEPH A. CLARKE,
Mayor.

The special privileges embodied in our money and credit system are little understood by those who are continually exploited.

You have laid bare the whole system, and pointed out the remedy.

Shall we wait until our financial troubles become as acute as those of European nations before we attempt a cure?

JAMES EAST, Alderman.

The social insolvency of capitalist society has come about by the private monopoly of banking systems. Panics, war and competitive prosperity will no longer endanger social and industrial life when the resources of the people are owned and controlled by themselves.

This work reveals the evils of the money system, and points out a remedy which I recommend to the young voters of the commonwealth.

REV. GEORGE L. RITCHIE,
Labor Church, Edmonton.

This booklet contains matter worthy of careful reading and consideration by all who work. The writer has given years of thought to this important matter, and I hope his efforts to improve conditions will be successful. It is up

to the people to take proper interest, and put the representatives of the workers in power to bring about a state of equity: equal justice to all men.

RICE SHEPPARD.

I believe the author succeeds in throwing a good deal of light on the vexed problem of the equitable control and distribution of money as a medium of public exchange.

I take pleasure in recommending the work to people who may feel the need of some easy means of getting their bearings in regard to a matter so practical.

REV. THOMAS P. MURPHY, B.A.,
St. John's College, Edmonton.

Your article on the money situation is . . . an interesting and enlightening piece of work. . . .

When one considers the importance of the subject, one is led to hope that every person who has anything to do with money will read your articles on it.

L. A. LAWRENCE, D.C.

I have perused with very deep interest the pamphlet entitled "Daylight On the Money and Banking Questions." . . . I unhesitatingly commend it as excellent educational material, and well calculated to inform all those who are seeking for information on these subjects which are so closely associated with public welfare.

L. T. BARCLAY,
Barrister-at-Law.

I consider your pamphlet on "Money and Banking" a very able, carefully thought out article; with constructive suggestions for the remedying of the most damning cause of the suffering and unrest of the masses today.

ERNEST BROWN.

With a great deal of interest I have perused the pamphlet entitled "Daylight On the Money and Banking Questions," and find it very instructive. . . . I have no hesitation in stating that this work is the most concise and comprehensive that I have read on the subject.

ALFRED GRANT.

Preface

In compiling and publishing literature on the great issues and problems affecting the welfare of society, the author assumes a very grave responsibility, and should be imbued with a spirit of unselfishness and feel certain that he is absolutely sound on the ideas and principles set forth, and animated with a desire to assist in the elevation and the betterment of humanity.

We believe it is the imperative duty of every person who knows the evils of our present political, industrial and economic systems, which enables a few to live in luxury at the expense and pauperization of the many, to do all in their power to wake up the people before it is too late.

If a recipe were offered for sale tomorrow at twenty-five cents which would enable any worker to double his income, and this recipe was endorsed by all the leading minds on social questions, as likely to give justice to all and work injury to none, the reader will agree that a rushing business would be done in selling such a recipe to the working people. The plans and principles set forth in this little book, if put into operation, will more than double the income of those who live by honest work, also make it impossible for any person or persons to become rich by schemes and tricks under cover of law at the expense of the toilers. I know that this grand change can be brought about without any injustice to any person. I know that if the wealth producers, farmers, mechanics and laborers of every kind, will act intelligently, they can make this change in society without bloodshed.

I know that capitalists will never relinquish their privileges without a struggle. They will do no fighting themselves, but if possible make the workers slaughter each other as they have always done in war. To prevent such a dire and possible calamity in this so-called enlightened age, should be the aim of every lover of justice, especially from a Christian standpoint. "Thou shalt not kill" applies to those who can prevent murder, as well as those who might commit murder.

The main part of this book was written over eight years

ago, but for financial reasons could not be published. It has now been revised and brought up to date, but the above words in black type are exactly as first written, to which I will add that if the workers of various countries which have been recently slaughtering each other by the millions, had for the last fifty years given due and intelligent consideration to public and international affairs we would now be enjoying peace, plenty and prosperity and comparative happiness.

Justice means equal opportunities for each and all, and if the precept "love thy neighbor as thyself" were embodied in all our statutes and all class laws abolished, peace, plenty and prosperity would prevail in all our so-called civilized and Christian nations, instead of the prevalent greed, graft, poverty, crime, degradation, desolation, famine and human slaughter that puts to shame the savage.

With these thoughts uppermost, I send forth this little book, hoping that even in a small way it may assist others who are earnestly striving to wake up the people and to establish a more equitable system of human society and government.—THE AUTHOR.

THERE ARE NINETY AND NINE.

There are ninety and nine that work and dig
In want and hunger and cold,
That one may live in luxury,
And be lapped in the Silken fold;
And ninety and nine in their hovels bare
And one in a palace of riches rare.

From the sweat of their brows the desert blooms,
And the forest before them falls;
Their labour has builded humble homes,
And cities with lofty halls
And the one holds cities and houses and lands,
And the ninety and nine have empty hands.

But the night so dreary and dark and long
At last shall the morning bring;
And over the land the victors song
Of the ninety and nine shall ring,
And echo afar, from zone to zone,
Rejoice! for the labour shall have its own.

DAYLIGHT ON THE MONEY AND BANKING QUESTIONS

CHAPTER I.

This little work is dedicated to the real wealth producers—the people who by their useful work of the brain and muscles produce all wealth—who by an intelligent exercise of their power can so revolutionize political and social conditions as to benefit the entire world. If the workers will only stand together and support candidates selected from their own ranks to make and administer laws in the interest of the people, and to repeal all laws by which the few are enabled to accumulate the bulk of the wealth produced, they can make it possible for the people as a whole to have their equal social share of the necessities and comforts of life. When the workers do this, then will they secure justice to themselves and security to the world.

Here let me state plainly and emphatically that I have no fault to find with the wealthy class—lawyers, bankers, corporation magnates and millionaires. They are intelligent men and are looking after their own interests by having laws made and administered so as to enable them and their families to enjoy all the good things of life, such as beautiful homes, the choicest of food and the most stylish apparel, the best possible college education for their children including travel, pleasure, culture and leisure. Such men are to be admired for their diligence in looking after their own interests.

But what about the workers, who by their labor produce all the wealth, and who perpetually vote for the system that makes this enrichment of the few possible? They are guilty of voting the wealth produced by themselves into the possession of the idlers and their families. They perpetrate the almost unbelievable folly of diverting the necessities of life from their own needy children to the surfeited children of the rich. They deprive their wives of warm and necessary clothing to provide the butterflies of society with the flimsiest of dress at fabulous prices. Why blame the rich? Blame him because he has wisdom enough to provide lavishly for himself and dependents at the expense

of the workers? No! and a thousand times No! Blame the workers who by their votes make possible the exploitation of the poor by the rich. Blame them. The wealth producers have the power in their own hands in the vote form; let them use that power, that vote, to abolish the schemes by which they are being robbed and to make a condition of things that will secure to them the wealth they produce and insure them their own well-being.

There are three channels by and through which the few are enabled to accumulate the wealth produced by the many.

First: Interest on loans, which is the cause of all money monopoly, and that largely makes all other monopolies possible.

Second: Rent, which is the basis of land monopoly and land speculations.

Third: Profits, innumerable kinds. All made possible by laws made and enforced by the various departments of government.

CHAPTER II.

The rapidity of the successive changes in American history and the acute nature of the struggle whereby the money power gained control, makes it a suitable basis for the discussion of wealth in its relation to government.

The condition of the American Colonies two hundred years ago is vividly described by Ridpath:

"The blessings of the free commonwealth were realized in full measure, almost unbroken peace reigned; the farmer reaped his fields with confidence and hope, the mechanic made glad his shop with anecdote and song, what was unknown, and pauperism unheard of, wealth was little cared for and crime was of rare occurrence."

"At that time there was not a mile of railroad in the world, there were no banks or money power to levy tribute, no trusts, monopolies or corporations. The land was free to those who needed to use it. The farmer used crude, inexpensive tools, reaped his grain with a hand sickle and threshed it with a hand flail. He kept sheep. The women spun and wove the wool into cloth. The tailor went from house to house and made the men's clothes, the women made their own and those for the children. The shoemaker did likewise. Their wants were few and easily satisfied, and they were comparatively a contented and happy people. No poor and no very rich."

Is there a country now in any part of the so-called civilized world of which the historian could similarly write?

Shortly after the period mentioned, men in Great Britain began to learn of the prosperity of the people of these colonies, and that there was an opportunity for exploitation. Some procured grants of land and other concessions from the British Government, others brought money or sent their agents to the colonies to start banking and speculative pursuits.

For the sake of comparison let us skip about 100 years, remembering that in the meantime the colonies had successfully shaken off British rule, and established the United States of America as a republic.

In the year 1814 the government of the United States granted a charter to the United States Bank, in which the government had shares, to entitle it to two directors. The funds of the Government were deposited in this bank. In order to see the nature of this institution let me quote Andrew Jackson in regard to some of the machinations of its directors.

"With the view of inducing the bond holders not to come forward for payment for one or more years after the government should give notice for their payment, this would have enabled the bank to use during that time public moneys set for the payment of these bonds, an agent was dispatched to England secretly to negotiate with the holders of the Public Debt in Europe, and induce them to hold back their claim during which time the bank expected to retain the use of the five million dollars of the public money set apart by the Government for the payment of that debt. In this scheme the Bank was practically successful. The fact that the bank controls, and in some cases substantially owns some of the leading newspapers of the country, the fact is clearly established that editors to whom it loaned extravagant sums on unusual time and normal security have turned out to be insolvent, and some without any security have been heedlessly granted loans. These newspapers have published that the Treasury was bankrupt and the bank was sustaining it, when for many years there has not been less than six million dollars of public money in the bank. The bank has through its organs openly assailed the credit of the Government when having so much of the public money which it was then using for its own profits. The fact has been recently disclosed that an

unlimited discretion has been and is now vested in the President of the Bank to expend its fund in payment for preparing and circulating articles and purchasing pamphlets and newspapers, calculated to operate, influence and sway the elections and secure a renewal of its charter. In November, 1830, an article was published in the American Quarterly Review, containing favorable notices of the bank, and suggesting the expediency of giving it a wider circulation at the expense of the Bank, and the Board passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, that the President be authorized to take such measures in regard to the circulation of said article as he may deem for the best interest of the Bank."

The expenditure under this and other resolutions during the years 1831 and 1832 were about eighty thousand dollars. The Bank is thus converted into a vast electioneering engine, with means to embroil the country in deadly feuds and extend its corruption through all the ramifications of society, and publications have been prepared and extensively circulated containing the grossest invectives against the officers of the Government (the two directors). With these facts before us, can we be surprised at the torrent of abuse poured out against all who are supposed to stand in the way of the cupidity or ambition of this bank? Nor can we be surprised at the sudden and unexpected changes of opinion in reference to newspapers in favor of an institution which has millions to lavish and avows its determination not to spare its means to accomplish its purpose."—Inaugural Address, December 3rd, 1833.

Again, on March 11th, 1834, President Jackson said:

"They prove that enormous funds were secretly lavished in a manner and for a purpose that can not be justified. and that part of the immense capital of the bank has been virtually placed at the disposal of a single individual, to be used if he thinks proper, to corrupt the press and to control the proceedings of Government by its influence over elections. The directors of the Bank, like all others, are accustomed to sit with closed doors and the Bank is believed to be now striving to obtain for itself the Government of the country. Aware as I am of the dangerous machinations of the Bank, it is more than ever my duty to be vigilant in guarding the rights of the people from the impending danger. I can never suffer anyone to hold office under me who would connive at corruption or who would

fail to give the alarm when he saw the enemies of liberty endeavoring to sap the foundations of our institutions and subject the free people of the United States to the dominion of a great monied corporation, nor can I consent to appoint directors of the Bank to be subservient instruments or silent spectators of its abuses and corruption, nor can I ask honorable men to undertake the thankless duty with the certain prospect of being rebuked by the Senate for the faithful performance of their duties in pursuance of lawful directions of the executive."

One month later, on April 15th, 1834, he expressed himself thus:

"To persuade my countrymen, so far as I may, that it is not in a splendid government supporting powerful monopolies are their liberties protected, but in a plain system void of pomp, protecting all, the granting favors to none; dispensing its blessing like the dew of heaven unseen and unfelt, save in the freshness of beauty they contribute to produce. It is such a government that the genius of our people requires, such government only under which we may remain for ages to come united, happy, prosperous and free."

CHAPTER III.

The progress and development of civilization has clearly defined two distinct forces that are occupying opposite grounds. One force is, as yet, but partially organized, the other is well organized and strongly entrenched. Both forces have at their disposal certain kinds of power. On the one hand, we have the scattered and uncentralized power of the people, on the other hand we have the centralized and organized power of wealth. The destiny of the world depends on the thoroughness and rapidity by which the people become organized, and therefore effective in the conflict which must decide the issue. The only means by which organization can be accomplished is through education. The people must be educated regarding the tremendous power exercised by wealth in the governments of all countries. They must have a clearer knowledge of the medium for exchange (money), and how it is related to the actual wealth of a nation. When this knowledge is gained, it will prove a great cohesive power to bind the people together.

That the power of wealth seeks the highest position and threatens the well-being of nations is clearly shown by the warnings of such men as Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln, men who waged a valiant fight against the "money-power" in the United States.

People may well pay heed to such statements as these from Jefferson:

"I sincerely believe that Banking institutions are more dangerous to liberty than standing armies."

Hear the solemn warning of Lincoln: "I see in the near future a crisis which unnerves me, and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power will endeavor to prolong its reign by working on the prejudices of the people until, perhaps, all of liberty is lost. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than in the midst of the Civil War. May God grant that my predictions may prove groundless."

I submit the following interest table right here which should cause the wealth producers to pause and think a little on this great question:

One dollar loaned for one hundred years at 6 per cent. compounded annually, amounts to \$340.00; \$1.00 loaned for one hundred years at 8 per cent. compounded annually amounts to \$2,203.00, or nearly seven times as much; \$1.00 loaned at 10 per cent. compounded annually amounts to \$13,809.99, about seven hundred times as much; \$1.00 at 12 per cent. amounts to \$84,075, more than four thousand times as much; \$1.00 at 18 per cent. amounts to \$15,145,007.00; \$1.00 at 24 per cent. reaches the enormous sum of \$2,551,799,404.00.

On June 1st, 1914, a well-known business man of Edmonton was indebted to a credit mortgage company in the sum of thirty thousand dollars. On June 1st, 1919, the manager of the mortgage company stated in affidavit to the Court that the debt with compound interest had increased to sixty thousand.

In the last report of the Canada Life Insurance Company it is stated 224 per cent. profits were made on investment.

Let me make, issue and control the money of a country, and I care not who may make that country's laws, I care not what the form, nature or principle of the country's

government, or superior intelligence and high ideas of the people, I can control the press and through such an agency mould and create public opinion in my own interest. Through my mouthpieces and watch-dogs—the editors and writers—with misrepresentation, ridicule and vituperation I can blast the standing, reputation and influence of the greatest intellects and noblest patriots who dare oppose my sway, and can make the people believe that their best friends are their worst enemies and vice versa. The legal lights will shape the law to suit my purpose, the courts will interpret and construe such laws in my interest, whilst by bestowing or withholding financial favors, I can blast or prosper any and every enterprise, public or private, and compel all commerce, enterprise and industry to pay me tribute and the people hail me as their benefactor.

A few years ago I saw quoted in the Banker's Magazine from a special speech made to a meeting of bank-clerks by a lawyer and an ex-state Governor and an ex-bank president: "I know of no position or calling aside from that of a banker so desirable as a lawyer, made possible from the fact that bankers are the men who pay the lawyer the highest fees."

In 1907, during that paralyzing panic, made purposely by the money power, one Mr. Robert Pringle, then a member of parliament in Canada, wrote some criticism of the Canadian banking system. Immediately a Mr. Robert Bickerdike, a banker, and also a member of parliament, called him to time in the public press and the substance of the banker's remarks were: "Mr. Pringle, we have the best banking system in the world." (It may be so for the banker.) Mr. Pringle crawled into his hole, but shortly after this crawled out again, and when next the Canadian bank charter was before parliament for renewal he made some amendments to the same which were acceptable to the "Bank Fraternity." Such is the power wielded by those who control the volume of money under the present capitalistic system.

We therefore claim that the "money question" is of more importance to the people of this country and every other so-called civilized country than any other economic question, and there is no other important question that the people appear to know less about and give less study to, taking the people as a whole, leaving the bankers out. I do not believe that there is over one man in five thousand

who understands the money question from an economic point of view, and there is no other great economic problem more simple and more easily understood. Money is of such importance under the present system that we can form no conception of commerce, industry or enterprise without it. For instance, if a person has money, he can procure every luxury and pleasure desired, and if a person has plenty of money he can employ it in many wealth accumulating schemes, whereas a person without money labors under all the disadvantages and difficulties of an actual beggar. The person who is the possessor of wealth, or is even supposed to have plenty of money, is looked up to and respected, no matter how secured, even if stolen from widows and orphans. We can scarcely contemplate anything more debasing or demoralizing in society than a person in debt, and hounded by creditors and looked upon as dishonest. There is only one other circumstance that we can think of to compare with this, and that is a person out of work and penniless, tramping and begging for the privilege of working for his fellowmen, and being refused. Scarcity of money among the mass of people results in more crime, I believe, than any other cause. History proves that in times of financial stringency, suicides, crimes, forgery and financial dishonesty are always on the increase.

Now let us see what money is, how issued, and where the power resides of said issue, and control. Where is the power to issue and control money? Every government in every so-called civilized country reserves to itself the right and power to make and issue the money or medium for exchange within its own jurisdiction, and passes strict and stringent laws prohibiting any and every person within its confines from making or putting into circulation money, or anything in lieu of money, and enforces such laws by heavy penalties. This being the case, would it not be reasonable to expect the Government to make and put in circulation enough of that thing called money for the people to do their business with on a cash basis. Is it not the imperative duty of the Government to do this?

Now, what do Governments do in this respect. They turn around and delegate this great reserve power to a few rich individuals, government pets—the bankers—thereby giving a few rich men the power, first, to double their own wealth, and issue their promissory notes in the form of money which all the rest of the people are compelled to

use as money; secondly, by giving them absolute power to control the volume or amount in their own private interest by making it scarce or plentiful as it best suits their purpose. This action gives them absolute power over all industries, commerce and enterprise so that scarcely any other man or combination of men can embark on any business, however necessary or beneficial to society, without first consulting the money power, thereby compelling all other classes of people to pay them tribute, so that rarely even a church or a schoolhouse can be built without consulting the usurers.

We have it on the authority of historians and records of Christianity that all payments for the use of money was condemned by the Christian church from its earliest days, until the fifteenth century and up to that time the least fraction of what we now call interest for money was condemned as usury.

The Bible also tells us that the only time the "Founder of Christianity" displayed anger or used force was when he overturned the tables of the money changers, and whipped them out of the temple. It also is noteworthy that the many woes and maledictions that He pronounced against wicked people were against the rich, the oppressors of the poor—the lawyers, and the blind leaders of the blind. Today we find the money changers in the front pews of our fashionable churches and the poor are thrust into the back seats or left outside, and alas! it causes millions of them to stay outside.

It is a recognized fundamental fact of political economy that labor produces all wealth. There is not, never was, and never will be any wealth produced otherwise than by and through labor. Let us keep this incontrovertible fact clear before our minds when studying and discussing all great economic questions.

Now, what is money? Money is the medium for exchange whereby labor and the products of labor are exchanged, and without other special legislation in the interest of money this would be the sole function of money, but owing to class laws in various ways, money has various other powers. For instance, there is the "legal tender" power which only lawyers, bankers and a few others understand, the meaning of which is: if a person owes another a debt and tenders him money in payment of that debt, unless that money is made a legal tender for the payment

of debts by the power that issued it, the creditor need not accept it; but if such money is a "legal tender" and is offered by the debtor and rejected by the creditor, such an offer practically cancels the debt. Now, I claim that there should be but one kind of money, and that a perfect money issued and controlled by the government in the best interests of all the people in sufficient amount for business to be done on a cash basis. Someone will ask, "How will such money be put in circulation?" Others will ask, "Do you expect the government will give any person money for nothing?" and similar questions. Some again ask, "How will the government get this perfect money in circulation in place of the numerous kinds of imperfect money that are now in use?" Suppose the government would instruct the proper official to make an amount of this perfect money sufficient to exchange for the money now in use, pass a law that on and after a certain date in the near future all the various kinds of money now in use be demonetized or made valueless, and between now and said date any person may exchange, dollar for dollar, what money they may have for this new perfect money in the various government bank exchanges, this would give us about the same amount of new money as we have now in the various kinds.

As to how to get the balance into circulation. The government is in debt (and that means the people are in debt), and should pay its debts, if it has the wherewithal to pay them. That would put so much more money in circulation among the people. The government has to pay out millions every year in defraying its current expenses, and instead of raising this money by taxation on the people, as at present, it could pay out this perfect money. Then the government is making public improvements all the time, and instead of paying for these through taxation of the people or borrowing from the usurers for the same purpose, it could pay out this new money for the public improvements. If the government pursued this policy the volume of money would always be increased as business and the population increased, and the people, through their government, would have sufficient medium for exchange—at cost of issue—to do their business without paying tribute to the money-lenders.

Evidently there is but one remedy for our monetary affairs, and that is for the government to take over and operate the whole money and banking business of the people in the interests of the people. Then the people will have

money at cost and sufficient to do their business with on a cash basis, and be liberated from the grasp of the usurer and money changer, and will go a long way towards freeing the wealth producer from the oppression of numerous other monopolies.

Then there are the deposits, that is, the money deposited in the banks for safe-keeping, which is proved to be from eight to ten times greater than the banker's own money which he loans out and draws interest on. Therefore under a proper money system the government would have all this vast sum to be used in the best interest of all the people.

The fact that all paper money issued by government or banking institutions is, and always has been, in the form of promissory notes—thus making it imperfect money on the face of it—arises from the fact that originally only kings had money made, and issued the money-token with their image stamped on bits of various metals—gold, silver or copper. In time, wealthy or influential subjects obtained concessions from their rulers, allowing them to have made nicely colored and decorated pieces of paper with various amounts or denominations of money printed thereon, and promised to pay the bearer, if so desired, the amount indicated thereon in King's money. Hence the origin of paper money. So the men who were able to accumulate the metal money in large amounts issued the paper money and they were supposed to have sufficient metal money to meet all such notes issued. It often happened, however, that those parties who wished to have their notes cashed found there was no money on hand, and the notes became worthless. The man who loaned this money to others took as security goods and chattels from the borrower—worth many times the amount—under an agreement to retain all such goods and chattels unless the money with an additional sum for the use of it was all paid by a certain date, hence the origin of interest on money. Frequently the borrower was unable to meet the obligations, and the money shark kept the property, so that in time the government was compelled to enact laws regulating the business. Then in the course of time the money lenders had laws enacted whereby the borrowers could give them a promissory note for a loan, which, if not paid by a certain time, the government would collect it for them, that is, the sheriff would seize the property and sell enough of said property to pay the money lenders,

including the sheriff's expenses. Thus did the banking system sprout and grow.

Time and experience have proved that money is a creation of law, and that the material on which money is stamped has no relation whatever to its money value. Listen to Judge Tiffany, who was one of the greatest jurists of the last century:

"Government can give to its stamp upon leather the same money value as if put on gold, so it may put its stamp upon paper. It rests solely with the government, and is a question of utility and convenience." (of "political economy").

The following is quoted from the United States Supreme Court:

"It is incorrect to speak of a standard of value. Value is an ideal thing, but the gold or silver thing we call a dollar is in no sense a standard of a dollar."—Wallace's Supreme Court Reports, page 553.

Money is a creation of law and the value of the thing upon which money is stamped has no relation whatever to its money value. This nonsense about gold basis and that gold is the money of the world, and that paper money must be based on gold is all camouflage, to throw dust in the eyes of the people in order to keep money scarce. There is nothing which scares the money lender like any proposition to make money plentiful. They call it inflation and say it would be a terrible calamity. It certainly would be for the bankers. For the people to have plenty of money issued to them by and through their own government at cost to do their business with, without being compelled to cringe and cower, beg and borrow the banker's debts in the form of money and pay tribute for the privilege would indeed be a calamity—for the money sharks. Yes, it would leave the bankers minus billions of dollars which at present they are able to take from the people and which would then go to the wealth producers. Why, the sun would actually cease to shine—on the money sharks!

Neither gold nor silver is money unless issued and stamped as such by government authority. The United States government in 1834 changed the Gold Coinage Act, making 258 grains ten dollars, which previously contained 270 grains, thereby giving the same money value to 12 grains less material or commodity value. Does not this prove that it is not the commodity value of the material on which

money is stamped, but the sovereign governing legal authority which makes money?

Again, in 1873 the same government made 380 grains of silver a dollar. Before that the silver dollar contained 420 grains. What made the silver dollar, with 40 grains less silver, worth as much as the former? The law. Money is the creation of law.

The American nickle is another proof of this principle. The government takes 75 per cent. of nickle and 25 per cent. of copper and from about 17 cents worth of this compound makes twenty five-cent pieces, and fixes the money value at one dollar. Thus the fiat of the government added 83 cents money value to 17 cents of commodity value, and the result is one dollar in money. Was that copper and nickle money? No. Only when it received the government stamp, with the law at its back.

Is it then not evident to common sense that paper money should never be issued in the form of a promissory note, as a note is an evidence of debt and the exact opposite of money? It calls for money to pay the note, therefore money issued in the form of a note practically invalidates itself as money. I maintain that paper money should have the same inscription on it as money stamped on metal, and in order to have it perfect money the law authorizing its issue should make it a full legal tender for all debts, dues and demands, both public and private, within the jurisdiction of the government which issues it. Then it never will, and never can, depreciate a fraction of a cent in a thousand years, and will be as permanent and as enduring as the government which issues it.

In order to carry this into effect, the farmers, mechanics and laborers—I mean by laborers, every person who, by brain or muscle, performs a necessary service to society—must unite, co-operate at the ballot box, and send their own men to the halls of legislation, instructed to do these things. Then, and not until then, will they be done. You can do that at the next election, but in order to do so, you must divert yourselves of all blind political party prejudice. Party is the bone of contention which the political schemers successfully use to keep the wealth-producers divided into two blind bunches, and on election day, the height of ambition of each crowd is to keep the other fellows out.

Now, Mr. Farmer, Mechanic and Laborer, who, by your

labor and the labor of your wives and children, produce the wealth of the world, but allow the idle few, through various schemes of interest, rent and other speculative profits, to accumulate and enjoy the bulk of said wealth. In order to change this conditions of affairs we must intelligently study these important issues, get to understand them, then by a clear cut, well-defined set of principles, enacted into law and faithfully carried into execution, all the evils which we are laboring under and contending against will be remedied without doing any injustice, thereby establishing equity.

CHAPTER IV.

Andrew Jackson's Farewell Address in 1834:

"Corporations (controlling the money) cannot be relied on to keep the circulation medium uniform in amount. In time of prosperity, when confidence is high, they are tempted by gain to extend their issues beyond the bounds of discretion and the reasonable demands of business. Then a reaction; yes, they create a reaction by immediately withdrawing their credits (suddenly curtailing their issues) and produce an unexpected and ruinous contraction of their circulation medium, which is felt by the whole community. The Banks by this means save themselves, and the mischievous consequences are visited upon the public, nor does the evil stop here. These ebbs and flows of the currency and indiscreet extensions of credit naturally engender a spirit of speculation injurious to the habits and characters of the people. We have already seen its effects in the wild speculation in the public lands, and all various kinds of stocks which within the past few years have seized upon such a multitude of our citizens and threaten to invade all classes of society, and to withdraw their attention from the sober pursuits of home industry. It is not in encouraging this spirit that we shall preserve public virtue and promote the true interests of our community and people. It is the duty of the government so to regulate its money system to protect this numerous class (the laboring class) from these impositions of avarice and fraud, and whose daily wages are necessary for their welfare. It is more especially the duty of this government, supposed to be the people, and where the respectable portions of our citizens are so proudly distinguished from the laboring classes of all other

nations by their independent spirit, their love of liberty, their intelligence and high tone of moral character, their industrious peace is our source of wealth, and their bravery in war has covered us with glory and the government of the United States will but ill discharge its duties if it leaves them a prey to such dishonest impositions.

"Recent events have proved that the money system of this country may be used as an engine to undermine our free institutions, and that those who desire to engross all power in the hands of the few and to govern by corruption or by force are aware of their power and prepared to employ it. Your banks now furnish your only circulating medium and money is plenty or scarce as it suits them.

"We are not left to conjecture how the money power thus organized and with such power would be likely to use it. The ruthless and unsparing temper with cities and communities oppressed, individuals impoverished and ruined, and a scene of cheerful prosperity suddenly changed into one of gloom and despondency ought to be indelibly impressed on the memory of the American people.

"If such was the power in times of peace, what would it not have been in a time of war, with an enemy at your doors? No action by the freemen of the United States could have come out victorious from such a struggle. Yet, if you had not conquered, the government would have passed from the hands of the many to the possession of the few, and the organized money power from its secret conclave would have dictated the choice of your highest officers and compelled you to make peace or war as best suited their interest. The forms of your government might have remained, but its living spirit would have departed from it. The severe lessons of experience will, I doubt not, be sufficient to prevent congress from again chartering such a monopoly. But you must remember, my fellow citizens, that eternal vigilance by the people is the price of liberty; and you must pay the price if you wish to secure that blessing. It behoves you, therefore, to be watchful in your states as well as in the Federal Government. The power which the moneyed interest can exercise when concentrated under a single head and with our system was sufficiently exposed in the struggle made by the Bank of the United States. Defeated in the Federal Government the same class of intriguers and politicians will now resort to the various states and endeavor to obtain there the same organization

which they failed to perpetuate in the union, and with specious and deceitful plans of public advantage and state interest and state pride, they will endeavor to establish in the different states one moneyed institution with overgrown capital and exclusive privileges sufficient to enable it to control the operation of other banks. Such an institution will present the same evils produced by the Bank of the United States, although its sphere of action is more confined, and in the state in which it is chartered the money power will be able to embody its whole strength and to move together with undivided forces to accomplish any object it may wish to attain. You have already had abundant evidence of its power to inflict injury upon the agricultural and laboring classes of society and others engaged in trade or speculation render them dependent on bank facilities, the domination of the state monopoly will be absolute and their obedience unlimited. With such a bank the money power would in a few years govern the state and control its measures, and if a sufficient number of states can be induced to create such an establishment the time will come when it will again take the field of the United States and succeed in perfecting and perpetuating its organization by a charter from congress. It is one of the serious evils of our present system of banking that it enables one class of society, and that not a numerous one, by its control over the currency to act injuriously upon the interests of all others, and to exercise more than its just proportion of influence in political affairs. The agricultural, mechanical and laboring classes have no share in the direction of the great moneyed corporation, and from the habits and nature of their pursuits they are incapable of forming extreme combinations to act together with united force. They have but little patronage to give to the press, and exercise but a small share of influence over it; they have no crowd of dependents about them who hope to flourish without labor by their countenance and fairness, and are always ready to exercise their wishes. The planter, the farmer, and the mechanic and the laborers all know that their success depends upon their own industry and economy, and that they must not expect to become suddenly rich by the fruits of their toil. Yet these classes of society form the great body of the people of the United States—the bone and sinew of the country—men who love liberty and desire nothing but equal rights and equal laws, and who, moreover, are in constant danger of losing their fair influence in the

government, and with difficulty maintain their just rights against the incessant efforts continually made to encroach upon them. The mischief springs from the power which the moneyed interests derive from the issue of the money which they are able to control from the multitude of corporations with exclusive privileges they have obtained from the government, and which are employed altogether for their own benefit, and unless you become more watchful and check this spirit of monopoly and thirst for exclusive privileges, you will in the end find that the most omnipotent powers of the government have been bartered away, and control over your dearest interests has passed into the hands of the corporations—the money system and its natural associations. Monopoly and exclusive privilege have already struck their roots too deep in the soil, and it will require all your efforts to check its further growth and to eradicate the evil. The men who profit by the abuses and desire to perpetuate them will continue to besiege the halls of legislation, and will seek by every artifice to mislead and deceive the public servants. It is to yourselves that you must look for safety and success of guarding and perpetuating your free institutions. In your hands is rightfully placed the sovereignty of the country, and to you, every one placed in authority is ultimately responsible, and while the people remain, as I trust they ever will, incorrupt and incorruptible and continue watchful and jealous of their rights, the government is safe and the cause of freedom will continue to triumph over all the enemies, but it will require steady and persevering exertion on the part of yourselves to rid yourselves of iniquities and mischiefs of the money power and to check the spirit of monopoly and other abuses which have sprung up with it, and of which it is the main support. So many interests are united to stop all reform on this subject that you must not hope that the conflict will be a short one, nor success easy. My humble efforts have not been spared; the power, however, is in your hands, and the remedy must and will be applied if you determine upon it.

“Knowing that the path of freedom is often beset by enemies who often assume the disguise of friends, I have devoted the last hour of my public life to warn you of these dangers. The progress of our country under our free and happy institutions has surprised the most sanguine hopes of the founders of the republic. Our growth

has been beyond all former examples, and from the earliest ages of history to the present time there never have been thirteen millions of people associated in one political body who enjoy so much freedom and happiness as the people of the United States. You have no longer any cause to fear danger from abroad. Your strength and power are well known throughout the civilized world. It is from within, among yourselves, from cupidity and inordinate thirst for power, that factions be formed and liberty endangered. It is against such designs, whatever disguise the actors may assume, that you have especially to guard yourselves. You have the highest of human trusts committed to your care, Providence has showered on this favored land blessings without number, and has chosen you as guardians of Freedom to preserve it for the benefit of the human race. May He, who holds in His hands the destinies of nations, make you worthy of the favors He has bestowed, and enable you with pure hearts and pure hands and sleepless vigilance to guard and defend to the end of time the great charge He has committed to your keeping.

"My own race is nearly run, advanced age and failing health warn me that before long I must pass beyond the reach of human events, and cease to feel the vicissitudes of human affairs. I thank God that my life has been spent in a land of liberty, and that He has given me a heart to love my country with the affection of a son, and filled with gratitude for your constant and unswerving kindness, I bid you a last and affectionate farewell."

CHAPTER V.

That the American people have paid little heed to Andrew Jackson's earnest and solemn warning is evident from the fact that less than thirty years later, we find a committee of politicians from Pennsylvania in New York soliciting campaign corruption funds.

John C. Fremont, having been nominated for President by the anti-slavery party, the old slave party, so-called Democratic Party, was badly scared and needed campaign funds. The committee visited one August Belmont, a German-Jew banker, and the American agent for Rothschilds. He told them he was not a democrat, not even a citizen. But they told him that the Rothschilds, through him, held a large amount of bonds on their state, purchased for a nominal sum, and that if he contributed liberally they

would see that those bonds were paid in full. Rumor said that he contributed \$75,000.00; records shows that the bonds were paid in full. Then in 1864 Belmont was made chairman of the National Committee of the Democratic Party, which position he held fourteen years in succession, and a blacker page was never chronicled in the financial history of any country.

On March 4th, 1861, when Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated President, several of the southern slave states rebelled, which caused the so-called civil war. The government found the treasury empty, and was in straits for money to arm and equip an army, and tried to borrow money from the banks, which had procured charters from the various states, as Jackson prophesied they would. They offered to loan their notes to the government at twenty or twenty-four per cent. interest in gold. About that time a farmer from Illinois journeyed to Washington, and laid before the President and his cabinet a plan whereby they could issue full legal tender government paper money, thereby becoming independent of the money sharks.

Accordingly a bill was laid before the House of Representatives and passed without opposition or delay. But when it went into the Senate it encountered such a storm of opposition by the money power—for the bankers had flocked in from New York, Boston and Philadelphia in full force—the bill was delayed for over three weeks, the Senate being largely composed of bankers, bondholders and other men of wealth, and lawyers, who are usually the tools and agents for the former, so when the Bill finally did pass it was so mutilated that this money was not lawful money to pay duties on imports or interest on the public debt. To whom are the duties of imports paid? To the government, of course. So the government therefore refused to take its own money, and thus compelled the importer of goods to go to the money gambler and exchange government paper money for gold in order to pay duties to the government. Then the government paid back the gold in interest on the bonds, the same gold being used to buy the government paper money; thus they ran the paper money down, until it took nearly three dollars of paper money to get one of gold. A great game, in which they robbed the people of millions. Now all these immense profits were added to the price of goods, and the people paid it all.

We claim that if the government paper money had been

made a full legal tender for all purposes, it would never have depreciated even so much as a fraction of a cent.

In order to prove it, let me say that while the Bill was being delayed in the United States Senate, S. P. Chase, then secretary of the Treasury, issued sixty millions of temporary money, termed demand notes, ten millions at one time and fifty millions at another time. At first they were not made a legal tender; they passed at about 25 per cent. discount. Chase got the government to pass a resolution making them lawful money, and they instantly went to par with gold, and never after did they depreciate even a fraction of a cent. During the war I had some of this money in my possession, so from personal experience I know it to be a fact. Let me explain their game still further. They induced the government to issue bonds to about the same amount as the paper money. Then Mr. Banker took this purposely-depreciated paper money and bought gold interest bonds at the full face value of the depreciated money, and all the while thousands of farmers and other workers were slaughtering each other to free the black man, and being paid thirteen dollars a month in this depreciated money.

In 1862 the bankers of England sent a circular to the bankers of the United States called the Hazzard circular, signed by Mr. Hazzard: "Slavery is likely to be abolished by the war, and chattel slavery destroyed. This I and my European friends are in favor of, for slavery carries with it the care of the laborer, while the European plan, led on by England, is capital control of labor by controlling wages. This can largely be done by controlling the volume of money. The debt must be used to control the volume of money by using the bonds as a banking basis. It will not do to allow the green back paper money to circulate, for you cannot control that."

Following this they had the government pass the law enabling them to start the National Banking System, by which they deposited their bonds with the government and got 90 per cent. of their face value in National Bank Currency to loan to the people at from six to twenty-four per cent. They also drew interest on the bonds. Later they had the law changed so that they drew the full face value of the bonds in the bank currency, and by their various manipulations in exchanging gold for paper money and the paper money for bonds, those bonds cost them about 17 cents on the dollar. It was not long before nearly all the

state banks turned into National banks, and the money power kept marching on. It would be almost impossible to compute the millions, yea, billions which they robbed from the people in one half century, and all of it produced by the workers—yes, the workers, who by their vote perpetuated this system on every opportunity. Worker and voter, do you not believe it would pay you to study this question? You can easily see that the money shark makes it pay well. Why not you?

In 1866, just a few months after the war closed, the bankers saw that money was too plentiful. Those who worked for wages were being well paid. Farmers were getting a fair price for their products, so that most of the business could be done without borrowing money. Therefore, they had a law passed authorizing the secretary of the Treasury to sell bonds and destroy the money he took in for the bonds thus sold. In this way there were over thirteen hundred million dollars of the money which the people were doing business with exchanged for interest-bearing bonds. The money exchanged for the interest-bearing bonds was ground up in a mill in the Treasury department and burned within ten years, thereby causing one of the worst and longest panics which was ever known, lasting from 1870 to 1879, and the people paying princely salaries to the men who were making these laws. Not one in ten thousand of the voters had the least knowledge of the legislation which was causing such dire distress and misery. The plutocratic press was telling the people anything and everything but the truth. They said it was caused by the extravagance of the people; they had been living too high, and that always after a period of prosperity a reaction comes, and they must not expect good times always. Such dope the people actually swallowed. At that time I came across the following squib from the London Times (Eng.): "We once thought the Americans were an intelligent people, but their willingness to have their money burnt and pay interest on the ashes to the money burners, renders them ignorant beyond excuse."

In 1866, after the war closed, money was plentiful in the States. Times were good, farmers got good prices for their produce, and were getting out of debt. There was abundance of work for laborers and mechanics of every class, because money was plentiful. The volume of money at that time was equal to \$52.50 per capita of the popula-

tion, but in 1879, when they got through destroying the money and replacing it with interest-bearing bonds, the money was about \$11.50 per capita of the population. Now, can you do as much business with \$11.50 as you can with \$52.50? You know you could not. Plenty of money among the people means good times for all who live by honest industry, but dull times for the banker, the money shark and the speculator. John Stuart Mill says: "If the whole volume of money was doubled, prices and wages would double." David Ricardo says: "That commodities would rise in price in proportion to the increase of money I assume to be a fact that is incontrovertible." In a Congressional Committee report, on March 2, 1877, precisely these words occur: "The true and only cause of the stagnation in industry and commerce now everywhere felt is the fact of falling prices caused by a shrinkage in the volume of money." Notice how mildly they refer to it.

In an address at a mass meeting in Edmonton, Canada, during the panic of 1907, I offered to pledge my life that there was more money locked up in the banks there than there ever before, and defied them to prove the contrary. I said they might appoint a committee right there to investigate the matter, and if they could prove me wrong they might hang me. There were bankers there, and they did not dare to take me up on the challenge. No man at that time could get any money regardless of what security he offered, and it was still worse in the United States. Depositors could not get their own money, much less borrow any.

In 1872, the British Shylocks sent an agent to Washington armed with half a million dollars to get a law passed which would demonetize silver, and as this agent told an American later in London: "I paid the money and got the law." You may ask what interest European bankers have in such a law to induce them to go to such expense and trouble to get that law passed? Note this: The bonded debt of the American people at that time was close to two billion dollars, and the law demonetizing silver, and another law passed soon afterwards making these bonds payable in gold, added over six hundred million dollars to the value of these bonds. Now suppose that half or more of those bonds were held by European bankers, can you not easily infer the incentive?

In 1887, Freeman O. Willey, of Wisconsin, published a

book of 730 pages entitled, "Whither are we drifting as a Nation?" In this book he gave an exhaustive review of the "railroad robberies," land robberies as well as the money and other evil legislation down to his time. It is a great work, but too voluminous and expensive for the average reader. I will here quote what he says about paying the bonds in gold: "Who did demand gold? Why, that gang of money pirates, and they got it! They besieged congress and clamored for gold, and that, too, when the Treasury was staggering beneath its burden and when death and mourning was at every hearth-stone. They purposely depreciated the paper money, so that the soldier received only fifty cents when he earned a dollar, while Shylock, who shared neither danger nor hardships, received a dollar for every few cents he had invested in bonds. Now, when they depreciated the government paper money, having enriched themselves and cheated the soldiers and laborers of a large share of their earnings, drawn gold interest in the bonds bought with money purposely depreciated, also got their bonds exempted from taxation, compelling the people to pay the fraudulent debt after fighting the battles, after all this—those shameless villains came forward and demanded gold for bonds which, by terms of contract under which they were issued, were payable either in paper money or silver or both, and in this demand were backed by the entire press of the country, and, of course, by the entire office-holding fraternity, and men who opposed the devilish scheme were denounced as calamity howlers, disturbers and dishonest repudiators. Yes, he made millions out of the people's woes." In view of all this, and recalling again the stirring warning of Andrew Jackson in his "Farewell Address," would it not be wise for every worker and wealth producer to spend, say, a couple of hours a week studying these matters?

CHAPTER VI.

After looking over some of this manuscript, a good Canadian said to me: "Your writing is all about the fights with the money power in the States; why not tell us something of the struggles against the 'Money Power' here in Canada, and the men who have opposed it?" I will answer as the Arkansas woman did the man in regard to sugar. This man stopped at a house for dinner. The good woman of the house duly prepared dinner for him, and invited him

to the table, and after pouring his coffee asked if he took sugar. On being answered in the affirmative, she said: "Now, Mr. —, would you believe me, but we just haint-er, that is, had no sugar." So here in Canada they just "haint-er," that is, they have no men, and have not had any in the past, to make any fight against or to oppose the march of the money power. The money power under the Canadian Bankers' Association has about everything its own way. The bankers bring their money scheme all cut out before the Parliament from time to time, and Parliament simply says, Amen; that is, O.K.'s their measures, and everything is lovely. So far as I can find out, they have never had a man to offer any real opposition or alternative to the present system. No, as the Arkansas woman said, "they just haint-er." Occasionally they have someone who complains a little, but they have no real knowledge or grasp of any real remedy. Some years ago a man in Ontario published a little work on money, in which he advocated that the farmers should be allowed to borrow money on long-time loans on farm mortgages at as reasonable rates of usury (interest) as the business men now get it. It did not seem to have occurred to him that farmers and other wealth producers are made of just as good clay as the bankers, are as good citizens, and are entitled to money at cost, the same as the bankers get it from the government. Then I know of a H. W. Ashplant, London, Ontario. He shows how the bankers "flim flam" the people, as he terms it, but he never seems to grasp the fundamental economics of money, or how the evil can be completely remedied by the government taking over the whole money system and operating it at cost in the interest of all the people, issuing and circulating enough money to enable the people to do their business on a cash basis without borrowing the bankers' debts, which, after all, is the nature of the bankers' notes, and which the people are compelled to hire from the bankers in order to carry on their business. The situation is simply this, the borrower pays interest on his own debt and again on the banker's debt to the people. The banker smiles, and says, "Heads I Win, Tails you Lose," and still the game goes on. Farmers and other producers vote for it to continue, perhaps not exactly that, but certainly they make it possible by their votes.

Permit me to explain how the political end of it is

played. It is said and presumed that we have in Canada and in the United States a Democratic form of government. That is the theory, but it does not work in practice. The following is typical of the political methods adopted: "Mr. B——, a rum-seller, and quite a gambler in a small town in Alberta, who, having had some experience as a political campaign heeler for other candidates, conceived the ambition to run for the provincial legislature, and he interviews some business men in town, expresses the desirability of having the member elected from that town, as it would help to advertise it, to which they all agree. Now, he says: I am on intimate terms and stand well with the party leaders in the province, and as practically all the voters pass through here on their way to and from Edmonton and call (or stay) at my hotel, I know most of them, and I know also the effect of free drinks on many of them. His friends, the business men, promise to stand by him. He being French, and the town nearly all French, things look promising. But, in the other parts of the district the farmers were mostly English-speaking. In that district there is a farmer who is a one-horse preacher, and has preached in those locations for two years previous to this. Mr. B—— interviews Mr. K——, and says: "I am running for the Provincial Legislature in this constituency, and I would like to make an agreement with you which would be a benefit to us both. I learn that you have much influence with the English-speaking people of the district. If you would use your influence in my favor, and if I win, then when my term expires I will step out and use my influence with the French people in your favor." Then they went through the usual routine of selecting campaign workers, promising them all good jobs. Mr. Mc—— I think would be a good person in his locality, says one, what shall we promise him? Now some prominent Irishman, what will capture him? "Make him chairman of the convention and supply him with funds to treat the boys, and he will be all right." They agreed how other workers were to be fixed up. In due time meetings were held and delegates selected, who, through the influence of these workers, were of the right stamp, so when the convention was held there was no other name before the convention save the rum-seller and gambler, heartily supported by the preacher, who was his main English campaign speaker. Would anyone care to say that this man was the choice of the voters and could represent the district? To represent means to be in

the place of, to act for and in the interest of those who send him. That is the work of the representative. What did this man know about the needs, the wishes and the interests of the farmers? Nearly all the voters were farmers. Still he has been re-elected, and is still a member of the legislature, to the everlasting shame and disgrace of the voters. When one of these schemers get their tentacles fastened on a district it is almost impossible to tear them loose. This is the Democracy we boast of. It is nothing more than a great farce.

Let me relate another case. In a remote part of the province a farmer is elected—a good man in a certain sense. He is a good farmer, a good and obliging neighbor, and a good father and husband. As to his ability, his knowledge and grasp of affairs or any of the important issues of the time, he positively knows nothing. He has been and is a faithful worker for his party, a fine old man, but poor material in a law factory. He sits there and when a measure is brought forward by the legal lights or party, and after discussion of the matter he realizes which side his party is on, then he and a few others like him vote with the party. The time for another election is approaching, and the party boss or perhaps some of his underlings or associates has a friend or able party worker who wishes to run in that particular district. They must let the old farmer down easy, so as not to lose him to the party. Here is how it was done. The boss in Edmonton, together with two other politicians, visits the district, over three hundred miles from Edmonton, and calls on the local politicians in a couple of small towns, and arrange matters so that the work was cut and dried for the coming convention. A certain man was to be chairman; he was to appoint certain men to make the necessary motions, etc. The convention was duly assembled. The old member was there, and felt sure of re-nomination, as there had been no complaints, and everybody was shaking hands with him. He was really feeling big. The convention was called to order, and proceeded with business. A motion was made that a committee of three be appointed to bring before the convention the names of candidates from which they might select one. This being carried the chairman appoints the three previously arranged for. The committee retires and in a short time returns and reports, "We, your committee, take pleasure in presenting to this convention the name of

Mr. W——, a man of ability, well known not only in this district, but throughout the province." On motion to adopt the report of the committee it was carried unanimously. The candidate was called on for a speech, and expressed his most profound surprise at the unexpected high honor. This, whilst we knew all the time that the whole thing had been previously planned. That was how the doctor got his nomination and the old farmer got left. Talking to the latter a year later, we found that he did not even suspect any crooked work in that convention. Who is to blame for the work done at that convention? The voters, nearly all farmers, but only a few of them attended the convention, and those few expected political jobs. The town politicians were there in full force, and while they only represented two per cent. of the voters they controlled the convention. Then you tell me Canada has Democracy. Such nonsense. Yes, the nominations for candidates for the Dominion Parliament is arranged precisely in the same way. Is it, then, a wonder that in this country, twenty men, shrewd, avaricious, crafty schemers, are able to own and dominate all our institutions—finance, commerce, transportation, industry and business of every kind. Yes, and the Government as well. Such is the case. Canada has no Democracy, but rather a plutocracy, and in the United States political skull-duggery is about the same.

Some ten years ago a very large delegation of farmers from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, at great expense of time and money, journeyed all the way to Ottawa and laid before the government, then in session, some measures of legislation very necessary to the well-being of the people of Western Canada. The government listened to them attentively, and promised due consideration. Seeing that the legislation has never come forth, we presume they are still considering. Here is how the tools and agents of monopoly in parliament looked at the matter. "I do not see what business that bunch of fool farmers had coming here to pester us. As long as they have not sense enough to send their own representatives here with instructions to look after their interests as other people do, the best thing to do is to treat them politely, and get rid of them as 'easy' as possible." Yes, great is democracy of, by and in the interest of plutocracy. I am a Democrat, says the leader of the Liberal party, and straightway accepts a title of nobility, which means the exact opposite to democracy. Then, so as

not to be left in the common mud the leader of the other party gets "one of those things too," and also a few of the nabobs who have succeeded in accumulating millions of the peoples' wealth are duly decorated for their eminent service to their fellowmen.

Self interest is the prevailing principle and dominating motive governing human action. Consequently these men will make laws for you, just to the extent that the laws will enable them to put your money into their own pockets. They say that if you do not know what you want, you do not deserve to get it. Who blames them? Wake up, Mr. Worker, and look after your own interest regarding legislation.

Again let me call your attention to the warnings of wise statesmen. "Liberty cannot long exist in any country where the tendency of the laws concentrate the wealth in the possession of the few," so says Daniel Webster. Thomas Jefferson, the greatest statesman of his time, said: "The power to issue money should be taken from the banks and be restored to the government — the people—where it properly belongs." And Abraham Lincoln, recognized as the wisest statesman of the nineteenth century, shortly before he fell a victim to the assassins' bullet, said: "I see in the near future a crisis which unnerves me; and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power will endeavor to prolong its reign by working on the prejudices of the people, until perhaps all liberty is lost. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than in the midst of the late war. God grant that my predictions may prove groundless." O. P. Morton, a member of congress, shortly after the war ceased, said on the floor of the house: "There is gathered around the capital of this nation a gang of miserable stock jobbers, with no more conscience than pirates, inspired solely by a greed for gain, and they have thundered successfully at these doors until they have driven this government into the most preposterous acts of bad faith and legalized robbery that ever oppressed a free people since the dawn of history."

S. P. Chase, who was secretary of the treasury under Lincoln, shortly before he died, said: "My agency in procuring the national banking system was the greatest mis-

take of my life. It has built up a monopoly in this country, which before it is overthrown, the money power will be arrayed on one side and the people on the other in such a contest as this country has never seen." That contest has just commenced. So far, the money power, through the power of the press and the aid of politicians, has succeeded in keeping the people so blindfolded and befuddled that they and the money power still go along serenely, and the past four years, while millions were slaughtering one another, is by far the greatest harvest the shylocks have ever enjoyed. Yes, all over the world they have been enabled to double and treble the people's obligations to them, on which they expect the people to pay tribute for all time. It will be easy for them to cause such a panic in the near future as they may see fit, and thus force the holder of most of these small bonds to sell out to them on their own terms.

CHAPTER VII.

IN CONCLUSION.

From authentic reports the profits of the banks of the United States last year, 1919, exceeded one billion dollars. Every dollar of that vast, almost incomprehensible sum, ten hundred million dollars, was robbed from the wealth-producers of every kind. We should also remember that this sum is but a small part of what the present fraudulent money system fleeces the workers. Take, for instance, the numerous mortgage, trust and loan companies, building loan and insurance companies, numerous private individuals loaning money; add to this municipal, city, state and national debts, all drawing interest, and it will amount to at least six times as much as banking profits. Thus we have the enormous sum of six billion dollars.

Now, let us eliminate the parasites and barnacles who fatten on the profits of industry; also the idlers and those engaged in waste and useless labor, and we will have remaining seventy millions of people, or fourteen million families. If these figures are correct, each of the fourteen million families are compelled to hand over annually to the usurers four hundred and twenty-six dollars—to the few idlers and schemers, who are thereby enabled to live in the lap of luxury at the expense of the millions of honest wealth-producers.

Then, take the toll annually paid in rent, also the tribute gathered through land speculation. To this we may add the profits of all the many corporations. Then is it any wonder that the masses of the people live close to the line of poverty, and that hundreds of thousands of workers, when out of a job for a few days or weeks, look starvation in the face?

The Canadian money sharks, land speculators, bankers and corporation magnates, are just as smart, shrewd, greed-loving, and cunning as their counterparts in the United States or any other country.

Debts of the Allies.

Great Britain—

1914, August	\$ 3,458,000,000
1918, November	33,000,000,000

France—

1914, August	\$ 6,598,000,000
1918, November	26,000,000,000

Italy—

1914, August	\$ 2,800,000,000
1918, March	10,328,000,000

U.S.A.—

1917, March 31	\$ 1,208,000,000
1918, November	18,000,000,000

Canada's Debt.

The net debt of Canada before and after the war was:

1914, August	\$ 449,376,083.00
1918, November	1,950,000,000.00

Here the writer observes, in closing, a panic looming up. A panic is coming shortly, for already the speculator is at work gathering in Liberty and Victory bonds, so that in the near future the large bondholders with the money drawn from the people in interest for the past decade, will be able to buy up the small bonds purchased by farmers, wage-earners and petty business men during the late war. These individual small bondholders will be compelled during the time of panic to sell at the big bond holders' own terms. This bond manipulation was planned before issues were made during the first year of the world war. Other results will follow; factories, shops and mines will be shut down, thousands of work-people will be thrown upon the streets. Hunger, starvation and destitution will spread its

dark pall over the so-called civilized world—better named civilized barbarism. Immediately following "The Great Panic" another world war is anticipated when the engines of destruction will be so improved as to rain desolation and death upon peoples outside of battlefields and mine areas. To prevent the coming dire calamity, there is but one remedy, that the wealth-producers of the various countries take full possession and control of their respective governments. Good indications of this are seen in the movements of labor in Great Britain.

The reader is urged to think of the needed change in social affairs; for this is a duty to ourselves, our families, our God and to society. The reader should also be inspired by the wider union of all the wealth producers in every land, and vote so as to retain the workers' full social share of the wealth produced. We must no longer continue voting the bulk of the wealth produced into the possession of the idler and the schemer.

Were I possessed of ten thousand tongues, and could speak in tones of thunder, gladly would I employ such powers to help wake up the people from their apathy and indifference.

The Press

This work would be very incomplete were I to omit warning the reader against the insidious, misleading and poisonous influence of the vile capitalist press, whose editors, writers and managers are simply the mouthpieces and watchdogs of the money power and all other monopolies which are fleecing the wealth producers. In 1878 William Windom, then senator from Minnesota, stated publicly that the money power had bought the whole press of the nation and were controlling all the avenues of intelligence. Not long after that, at a banquet of an editors' convention held in New York, a toast was proposed to the Independent Press.

John Swinton, an editor on one of the leading New York papers, being called on to respond to the toast, arose and spoke as follows: "Gentlemen, you know, and I know, that there is no such thing as an independent press; you know, and I know, that I am paid \$125 a week for keeping my honest opinions out of the paper I am writing for, and you

are paid similar salaries for similar services; and what nonsense in toasting an Independent Press. Why, if my honest opinion appeared in one issue of the paper, I would be out on the street looking for a job. We are the tools of other men behind the scenes. We are mere jumping jacks; they pull the strings and we dance. Our brains, our talents are the property of other men. We are intellectual prostitutes." John Swinton never wrote another article for the Tribune—he was bounced next day. Then he at once started a little four-page paper, and for two years he told the people more important facts than they were ever told before. Swinton died and the paper went down. I read the first copy of the paper and the last, and I think every one between, so I speak from knowledge.

For instance, here is one way in which the press misled the people. When the tragedy occurred last year at Centralia, Washington, in which the soldiers' parade stopped and raided the I.W.W. headquarters, it was heralded by the press that the I.W.W. fired from their headquarters into the parade as it was passing, killing and wounding some of the soldiers. The people reading this believed it to be a fact. When the trial commenced, these and many other false charges made by the prosecution were published broadcast as facts. The defence showed that the procession halted before the I.W.W. headquarters, and a returned soldier swore in court that he said, "Boys, let us go and raid the I.W.W." The crowd rushed to the place and battered in the door before the men inside fired on them. The men who were in the office all swore that they never fired a shot until the door was battered in, but the vile press never published one word of the defence evidence. Again, in the later Winnipeg trials, the press pursued the same tactics. Also, in Albany against the five socialist members, who were expelled from the New York legislature, the corrupt press published as facts all the false charges and slanders made by the prosecution—"persecution"—against those men. But when the defence proved that the slanders and accusations were untrue, the press was busy showing how the Spartacans were being suppressed in Germany; how the brave Polish forces were driving back the Bolsheviks. However, the press did not tell the fact that the Allies were assisting the Poles with men, money and war material. Oh, no! this would not be in the interests of Capitalism and Plutocracy—the masters of the press. Now that the Bolshevik forces are capturing Polish sup-

plies furnished by the Allied countries, the press is telling the people what is transpiring in Africa, Turkey and Ireland—the terrible atrocities of the Sinn Feiners.

Let me say here, the wealth producers can remedy the corruption and duplicity of the capitalistic press but in one way, and that is by building up, sustaining, reading and supporting true and tried labor and socialist papers, until they can get unadulterated, intelligent information in and through their own press.

And may God hasten the day, is my humble but earnest prayer.

To Our Socialist Friends

We all agree that there exists a very strong prejudice against Socialism in the minds of those who do not understand the principles, aims and objects of the movement. This prejudice is due to various causes, some of which I beg to submit for your consideration:

It appears to be a natural failing with people when any new idea is presented to them "to feel" that such a thing is impossible. People, they say, will not bother their brains with such nonsense. If such a thing could be done our statesmen and leaders would have adopted it long ago. They give the subject no more thought, but often ridicule it as a dream and a folly.

Others become enthusiastic as soon as they read or hear a synopsis of the principles, and before they understand it, go forth and preach it unto others. This often does more harm than good.

When Carl Marx wrote up the "Ideas," and showed how to make the movement a success in politics, in Germany the Atheists first took up the movement and appeared to think they had found a means whereby to destroy Christianity. Many of their men being educated, wrote and published works on socialism, and endeavored to show that Christianity was chiefly to blame for the evils of the present system. This started the conflict between the church, or rather, some of the clergy, and the movement. In France about the same time Marx's works were being extensively studied, but the movement fell largely under

the control of the "Freemasons," so that started a conflict in France that soon spread to other countries, and many of these early writers tried to inject into it a morality entirely foreign to it, and in conflict with Christian teaching.

Then the privileged classes, who control public affairs throughout the world, knowing that when socialism is inaugurated it will abolish special privilege and establish equal opportunities for all, used their influence and power to carry on a campaign of slander and misrepresentation through the press of the world.

In the movement itself in Canada and the United States we have those in large numbers, especially in the cities, who wish to control the movement to assist in the overthrow of Christianity. This element is a stumbling block and a terrible detriment to the cause.

What would be thought of the judgment of leading citizens who in political meetings contend for a religious or irreligious test of citizenship? They would be hooted at as lunatics in any enlightened country. It should be either in the platform or constitution that any speaker who rails at or slurs Christianity or religion of any kind shall be suspended from speaking. Socialism has enough to contend with without enemies within its own household.

To establish true democracy the leaders of economic thought should confer together and inaugurate a system of organization which would be attractive enough to take in all wealth producers, whether by hand or brain. There should be two classes, those over twenty-one years and between fourteen and twenty-one. The locals should hold weekly meetings, those over twenty-one to conduct the meeting one week, and those under twenty-one the next week, to discuss and educate the members on all political, economic and social issues in regard to the welfare of society.

In this association there should be no question in membership of creed, nationality or color, and the term brother and sister be used instead of comrade, our aim being to establish the recognition of the brotherhood of man.

The organizations should have locals, provincial or state assemblies and a national assembly. The membership fee should be just a nominal sum, annual dues a trifle, paid only by those over twenty-one years old. All funds accumulating into the treasury should be used in compiling and dis-

tribution of pamphlets amongst outsiders, and some kind of recognition or reward bestowed on those who originate and compile the most effective of this form of literature. Books at a cost of a dollar up are neither bought nor read much by the masses, but they will buy and read a five, ten, fifteen or even twenty-five cent pamphlet. The term club is not attractive for such an organization, especially with good Christian people. Suppose, then, we term the meetings Local Assemblies, District Assemblies, State or Provincial Assemblies, National or General Assemblies.

If this plan could be adopted by some existing organization so much the better, but it seems to me that something of this kind is imperatively necessary all over the world immediately in order to escape anarchy and perhaps blind revolution in the destruction of what little democracy and liberty we now enjoy.

A Remarkable Letter

Ranfurly, Alta., March 15th, 1918.

My Dear Mr. Owens:

It was some time in March, 1916, that I met a Mr. Godsall at the Selkirk, who claimed he had been identified with the British Diplomatic Service for the past fifty years, and was then on his way over to Russia on some mission in connection with the present war. Our conversation naturally drifted into the vexatious war questions—What were the forces which brought about the war, and the after-the-war conditions which would be placed upon society.

In his own words, he said: "I don't mind telling you that I am an Imperialist, and the class I represent are exactly in the same position—in fact, we are more proud of that distinction than you are to claim that you are a Democrat. Democracy has proven itself a miserable failure as a win-the-war force. What we so badly needed at this present time was an autocratic government—a one-man government, who, like the Kaiser, could have ruled with an iron hand. Had this been the case with Britain, we would have been a victorious Britain, and the liberties of our people would have been preserved."

Said he: "We realized ten years ago that this war should

be brought about, else Democracy would destroy our present advanced civilization. Kings' and Emperors' positions were beginning to totter—authority in the land was on the decline—communities, as well as the Empire, were going through a disorganization process, where law and order had no meaning to the great masses—where men in high positions, men in authority, in wealth, in Royal Courts, were being obliged to mingle with the masses, sit at the same tables, obliged to discuss things contentious, without the honor, respect or obedience due to those specially privileged or chosen by God. This disorganization inclined men without ability, without efficiency, without wealth, to continue in greater idleness. All were to be leaders, where there were none to follow. Capital was badly distributed, its power weakened, great developments discouraged from lack of centralization—all is disordered and chaotic."

These reasons, said he, had convinced those in authority the world over that a great world war was necessary. Authority, order and concentration of capital were absolutely essential for the perpetuity of the Empire. No great development could be undertaken without concentration of wealth, and the subjection of the workers. Nothing but the war could centralize capital—nothing but war, with its taxes, could again pauperize the intelligent workers—so the methods used by trained and specialized war-makers, with their well-devised program of appealing to the patriotism of the people, was justified beyond doubt, even though the future generations were unable to fully understand such justification.

"Why," I said, "in your war aims you say we are fighting for our liberties; and when we have conquered, a greater, a better and a broader democracy will be instituted. How can you justify your argument? Are we not, as men, to have some part in the re-organization?"

His reply was: "No, no; what could we do as individuals, on the return of a victorious military element whose program was directly opposite to democracy? You will be so worn and torn with the ravages of war you will be glad to take peace at any price—peace with the enemy will be the least considered—what you will want is 'Peace at Home.' Again, your whole thought will be taken up with the problem of preserving your own existence, which is the first law of Nature. Besides, what can the people do in opposition to this well-organized military class who control the

tools of subjection, whose position must be supported by producers of values? They will never allow you to return them to private life, but must be fed at the government trough at your expense, thus aid them in your subjection. Never will the Rulers of Europe or the world ever permit this so-called democratic sentiment to prevail again. Large standing armies always will be in readiness, not to fight Germany, Russia or Italy, but to keep in subjection the insubordinate masses of the working people. In this lies the strength of the Empire—not, as was supposed, in silly democracy of the 19th century."

(Sgd.) PHILIP S. AUSTIN.

I, Philip S. Austin, of Ranfurly, in the Province of Alberta, farmer, do hereby solemnly declare:

~~That the foregoing letter embodies a true and faithful~~ account of the conversation which took place between myself and the Mr. Godsall referred to.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and knowing it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath, and by virtue of The Canada Evidence Act.

(Sgd.) PHILIP S. AUSTIN.

Declared before me at Ranfurly, in the Province of Alberta, this 26th day of June, A.D. 1919.

(Sgd.) R. CLARK.

A Commissioner for Oaths, etc.,
in and for the Province of
Alberta.

In February and March, 1918, I had three short articles published in the Edmonton Bulletin over the signature of "Broad Axe," in which I advocated that the Canadian Government should pay to the returned soldiers the difference between the army pay and what others were paid during the war; and in addition to that, give each returned man a loan of two thousand dollars for twenty years without interest, to be paid back in equal instalments the last ten years; and showed where the government could get this money, also the land for homesteads for those who wished to start farming, without sending them out of civilization, and without any injustice to any one else.

I still advocate the same measures.

Suggested Platform

1. That the government shall make and issue a full legal tender perfect money, and put it into circulation: (a) by exchanging it, dollar for dollar, for the various kinds of money in existence within a stated time in the near future (say six months); (b) by paying all its current expenses; (c) by paying it out for all necessary public improvements; (d) by paying its public debt until money is so plentiful among the people that no person will be obliged to borrow and pay even one per cent. for the use of a public utility. That all banking business be taken over by the government, and conducted in connection with the Postal Department in the best interests of all the people, and that all present banking laws be repealed. All laws for the collections of debts between individuals should be repealed.

2. Land.—Whereas our present land laws are in conflict with natural law and social justice, and many students of political economy believe them to be the greatest economic evils of the present system. The government should pass a law that on and after a certain date, all titles to land except for use shall be null and void, and secure to each citizen their share of the same for use. That there be no tax on land, but instead a tax on privileged locations. Suppose farmer A lives within two miles of town and market, but B lives sixteen miles from town and market, their land being of the same productivity. It costs B one hundred dollars annually more than A to do his town business, then A should pay the government the difference for the privilege he enjoys over B. Government should encourage co-operative farming, especially on account of schools and community social life.

2a. Tariff is a tax on all productive industries, and paid by the farmer and all other wealth producers, and should be abolished.

3. Natural Resources.—As the earth, everything in, on and connected with it are the free gifts of the Creator to all mankind, all man-made laws enabling certain individuals

and groups of individuals to speculate and exploit the same to the injury of the people are unjust. Therefore all minerals, timber and other natural resources should be held sacred and administered democratically in the interest of the people.

4. **Public Utilities.**—That all railways, telegraphs and telephone services are public utilities, and should be taken over and operated by the government in a similar way to the postal department. That corporation charters of all kinds be annulled, and all such business be taken over and democratically administered by some branch of government. That all heads of government departments be elected by the people. That salaries of all public servants be governed by the average remuneration of those engaged in the six leading necessary productive industries. This would largely remove the incentive to office-seeking and place-hunting.

5. **Franchise.**—That the sacredness of the ballot be guarded by heavy penalties.

That the supreme government only should confer or grant the franchise.

That there be no money or property qualification on candidacy or citizenship (relics of a by-gone age), and in Canada substitute the word citizen for subject. That election laws be revised so as to permit at least three months between nomination of candidates and the election, thus allowing time to examine and discuss all necessary public questions. That the word "male" be removed from all statutes and the word "person" substituted, and terms "men," "women," "boys" and "girls" used where necessary.

6. That six hours shall constitute a legal day's work in all departments except farming during four weeks in the spring or seeding time and four weeks in harvest time.

7. That our school system be so re-modelled as to enable all children the opportunity of a first-class education: (a) by raising the school age to 18; (b) by teaching all necessary trades, occupations, and callings in our public schools, so that each child may cultivate his or her natural ability and desires in order to qualify them to fill some necessary calling or occupation successfully in after life; (c) that in the public schools all children over fourteen years of age

be taught true political economy from the most modern advanced thought of democracy, including the rights and duties and responsibilities of citizenship, also have lessons in our school books explanatory of co-operation, and industrial unionism and democracy in industrialism.

8. That the legislative government shall consist of but one elected body, and the veto power be taken from the heads of all governments and assumed by the voters through the adoption of direct legislation, the initiative, referendum and recall, and the system of proportional representation. The same principles to be carried out in all industrial organizations.

8a. That militarism be discouraged, as war is ever made by and in the interests of money kings and speculators, forcing destruction upon the common people without them being heard or a choice made in the decisions of war.

9. That our political system be so remodelled that: (a) all court judges be elected by the people for reasonably short terms, eligible for re-election; (b) the death penalty be abolished, as the command "Thou shalt not kill" applies to judicial murder as well as to other murder; (c) that our prison system be remodelled and conducted as reformatory institutions, and that the inmates or their dependents shall receive the social result of their labor; (d) that courts be deprived of power to declare any law to be unconstitutional which has been enacted by any proper legislative body.

10. That each person over fifty-five years of age shall receive a sufficient pension enabling him or her to live in comfort.

11. That the medical profession be under government supervision, known as the Health Department. The chief of this department should be elected by the people, the candidates for said office to have no connection with any particular school of medicine.

That those physicians who prove most successful in healing diseases and preserving health be specially rewarded.

12. That the rights of free speech, free press and free assembly shall not be curtailed under any circumstances.

13. That the rights of all citizens and their families to religious belief and practice shall always be maintained, providing the nature of same does not disturb the public peace.

14. That the laws of commonwealth be as few and as plainly written as possible, so that the average citizen may easily understand them.

15. That until the public debt is cancelled a tax of 50 per cent, be levied on all incomes over \$2,000, graded up to 100 per cent. on \$1,000,000; death duties and inheritance tax to be similarly levied.

THE AUTHOR.

THESE THINGS SHALL BE.

These things shall be—a loftier race
Than e'er the world hath known shall rise
With flame of freedom in their souls,
And light of knowledge in their eyes.

They shall be gentle brave and strong
To spill no drop of blood, but dare
All that may plant man's lordship firm
On earth, and fire and sea, and air.

Nation with nation, land with land,
Unarmed shall live as comrades free;
In every heart and brain shall throb
The pulse of one fraternity.

New arts shall bloom of loftier mould,
And mightier music thrill the skies,
And every life shall be a song
When all the earth is paradise.

